

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

From: PATH

Contact: Ann C. Peterson, 331-2765

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### **SEEKING SPONSORS AND VOLUNTEERS**

Sponsors and volunteers are being sought to help out with the first Walk to School Day in the state of Hawai`i.

On Tuesday, October 2, 2001 students and parents from Kealakehe Elementary School, Kealakehe Intermediate School, Kealakehe High School and Hualalai Academy will join with Mayor Harry Kim, Councilman Curtis Tyler, Managing Deputy Director, Peter Young, and hundreds of mayors, city council members, superintendents and other community leaders from 47 states across the country and 18 countries around the world for a walk to school in celebration of National Walk Our Children to School Day.

The walk is being planned by a consortium of community organizations including, PATH, Kealakehe Neighborhood Watch, TREE Center, Kealakehe Parents Center, and Soil, Water Conservation and Assistance Program, with cooperation by the schools, county and community police. There will be refreshment centers located in key areas around the neighborhoods, and even students riding the bus will be given the opportunity to walk once they get close enough to their school. Student participants will be given a free T-shirt to honor their involvement, and can enter their name in a drawing. Prizes will be given at a post event rally.

The Walk will celebrate the opening of Kealakehe Pathway – a non-motorized link between the upper and lower schools and neighborhoods in the ahupua`a of Kealakehe. The pathway will become linear park, with planning and care by students, residents and neighborhood groups. The project is part of the larger Kealakehe Ahupua`a 20/20 – a consortium of groups formed to transform the wastewater treatment plant and the dump, both of which lie within the ahupua`a, into community resources. A youth center is also being planned for the area.

The Partnership for a Walkable America established National Walk Our Children to School Day to encourage healthy life styles, to help teach children about pedestrian safety and to help parents and others become aware of the difficulties and dangers children face on their trip each day.

DOT Safe Communities, Bikes Belong Coalition, and Ironman Foundation are sponsoring this event. Businesses and volunteers wishing to donate prizes or set up aid stations, please contact Ann at 331-2765 or 938-2275, or Renee at 326-9675.